



2023
RULES & GUIDELINES

EDMONTON & RURAL RECREATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE

The ERRBL is a recreational level league. It is the intent of those that established this league to provide an environment for young players to extend their opportunity to play baseball and as such it is first and foremost very important for all involved to understand that these rules have been developed to keep the spirit of the game in mind. It is a must that all coaches demand a good sportsmanship attitude from their players towards other players, coaches and umpires.

2023 General ERRBL Rules & Regulations

Games will be played according to the Baseball Canada Rulebook unless superseded by the following League rules.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the case of bad weather, all teams should expect to play unless otherwise notified. A decision on whether or not a game will be played must be made by 5:00pm of the game day. It is the HOME TEAM's responsibility to notify the opposition, umpires and Baseball Alberta (programs@baseballalberta.com) of a postponed game.

MAKE-UP GAMES

Should circumstances prevent a league game from being played (as scheduled), the team who requests a rescheduled game is responsible for giving the opposition suitable advanced notification for rescheduling the game. Notification must be given to Baseball Alberta (programs@baseballalberta.com) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled start date of the game.

These games need to be made up as soon as possible, but if all efforts have been made to make the game up, but uncooperative weather etc. makes this difficult, the game can be assessed a 1-1 tie. Baseball Alberta can make the decision to award a loss to any team that does not take reasonable steps to make their team available to reschedule a game that was postponed.

ZERO TOLERANCE

Adhering to the schedules must be taken seriously. If your team cannot make it to a game or if you are not 100% sure whether the fields are open or not, you must establish communication with the other team well in advance of anyone heading to that field. Teams that do not show up for their scheduled games will be dealt with at the discretion of Baseball Alberta. We do not want people traveling to a scheduled or rescheduled game to find the other team did not show up. This could lead to an immediate removal from this league.

GAME START TIMES

All games in May will have a first pitch time of 6:30pm with no new inning to start after 8:30pm (official time to be determined by the umpire's watch).

If both teams would like to continue the game past 8:30pm to finish a full game, this must be agreed upon by both teams at the plate meeting prior to the start of the game. All games in June will have a first pitch time of 7:00pm to allow more time to travel to games, with no new innings to start after 9:00pm (official time to be determined by the umpire's watch).

If both teams would like to continue the game past 8:30pm to finish a full game, this must be agreed upon by both teams at the plate meeting prior to the start of the game.

All games associated with a double header will strictly adhere to the rule of no new inning to start after 2.5 hours from first pitch (official time to be determined by the umpire's watch).

All playoff games will strictly adhere to the rule that no new inning starts after 2 hours from first pitch (official time to be determined by the umpire's watch).

MINIMUM PLAYERS

To keep in the spirit of good sportsmanship and to maintain the intent of the league, all games will be played even if one team is short players. If a team has less than 7 players, that team will forfeit the opportunity to win the game. It is however our intent that the other team will then lend players to even up the two teams and an exhibition game will be played and umps will be paid.

If a team can only field 7 players the game will be played as scheduled, but again, good sportsmanship must be considered. The team with more players can assist the team that is short by offering to take defensive positions for them when they are in the field but will bat in normal order with their own team.

Teams have until 5 minutes after the scheduled start time to have their players at the field and ready to play.

OVERAGED PLAYERS

Any use of overage players is at the discretion of Baseball Alberta and must be approved. If there are any players that once playing in the league are judged to be far better than the rest of the league, Baseball Alberta may revoke the eligibility in the ERRBL. This should only be allowed when that player's skills are such that his or her safety would be a concern playing at their correct level, or there is nowhere for them to play.

Overage players are permitted to pitch. However, overage players can only pitch 1 inning per game and only 1 overage player is permitted to pitch in any given game.

PITCHING

Pitchers may only pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game, 4 innings per day. The maximum a player can pitch in any week (Friday to Friday) is 14 innings. The Baseball Alberta Pitch Count Guidelines are not mandatory for the ERRBL but they are recommended to be followed. If a pitcher throws one pitch, they will be charged with one inning pitched whether he remains in the game at the position or not, this includes warm up pitches if the player approaches the mound.

Pitchers will only be allowed 8 warm-up pitches when they enter the game and 5 warm-up pitches during subsequent innings. It would be appreciated if the coaches would warm up their pitches on the sidelines whenever possible.

FIELD DIMENSIONS

Per Baseball Alberta Handbook

DIMENSIONS	15U	18U
Base Lines	80 ft.	90 ft.
Pitching Distance	54 ft.	60 ft 6 in.

EQUIPMENT

Per Baseball Alberta Handbook

	MAX DIFFERENTIAL	MAX DIAMETER	MAX LENGTH
15U	-5	2 - $\frac{3}{4}$ "	34"
18U Male	-3	2 - $\frac{5}{8}$ "	34"
18U Female	-5	2 - $\frac{3}{4}$ "	35"

15U Bats – ****New for 2023** All 15U athletes are eligible to use up to a -5 bat with a barrel no more than 2-3/4" diameter. Females using bats that are NOT -3 must have them clearly marked (coloured tape around handle) and umpires must be notified of this bat prior to the game.**

18U Bats – Where non-wood bats are permitted, only approved "BBCOR" stamped non-wood bats in the 18U and above categories will be permitted for use. 18U Females are eligible to use up to a -5 bat with a barrel no more than 2-3/4" diameter. Females using bats that are NOT -3 must have them clearly marked (coloured tape around handle) and umpires must be notified of this bat prior to the game. If a male player is caught approaching the plate with a bat with a larger bat differential than -3, he will be an automatic out.

If an umpire notices any player with a bat with a larger bat differential than -3 approaching the plate and it is not clearly marked with white tape, the batter will be an automatic out. The location of the white tape needs to be just below the barrel and well above the hand grip area and needs only to be a wrap or two around. The tape needs to be clean and clearly visible. The umpire needs to be informed prior to the start of the game, the intent to use bats with a larger differential than -3.

SUBSTITUTIONS & LINEUPS

Unlimited substitution – every player present will be placed on the line-up card in the batting order and will all bat in order; players are allowed to move in/out defensively without restrictions, except the pitcher leaves the mound to play another defensive position, that pitcher may not return to the mound or catch in the same game.

*All players who are present for a game and in uniform (unless injured and unable to play or suspended for that game by the league or team) must be listed on the batting order/line-up card – any coach who sits a player to gain a competitive advantage will be subject to discipline by Baseball Alberta.

*Any player who is injured or has to leave the game will be skipped in the batting line-up with no penalty

*Participation Rule – A player may not sit more than 2 consecutive defensive innings (one pitch constitutes an inning sat)

All coaches are encouraged to let the players experience playing all positions during the course of the season unless in the coach's opinion the safety of a player is jeopardized by playing a particular position.

A courtesy runner for the catcher must be used when there are two outs in the inning and the catcher is on base. The courtesy runner will be the player who was the second out of the inning. This is designed to help speed up the game.

GAMEPLAY RULES

Each game shall be 7 innings, with 3 innings being the minimum required for an official game in the event of inclement weather or darkness.

There is a 5 run mercy rule per inning. A complete inning will end with both teams having either 3 outs or 5 runs scored. This rule will remain in effect throughout the entire game.

If after the 4th inning a team is ahead by 15 runs or more, a 15 run mercy rule will apply, with the win being awarded to the team with the higher runs scored. If both teams agree, the game can continue to go on. The score will be reported as the score at the time the 15 run mercy rule was applied.

There will be no open innings during the regular season or playoffs.

All base runners are permitted to lead off.

SCORE REPORTING

The WINNING TEAM is responsible for submitting game scores within 48 hours of game completion. Instructions on score entry will be sent to each team prior to the start of the season.

ROSTERS

All teams MUST submit a roster to Baseball Alberta by May 8th, 2023. If Baseball Alberta has not received the roster by this date, teams will receive forfeit losses until a roster is received.

HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

The HOME TEAM is responsible for:

- Field preparation
- Certified umpires available
- At least two new baseballs to start the game and quality used baseballs for the umpire throughout the game as needed
- Scorekeeper and pitch tracker

UMPIRES

The HOME TEAM is responsible to ensure that certified umpires are available for the game. If there are travel costs associated with the umpires getting to the game, this burden lies solely with the HOME TEAM regardless of where the game is being played. The HOME TEAM must ensure at least one of the attending umpires is certified. If for some reason an umpire does not show up, under NO CIRCUMSTANCES is a coach or any other non-certified person permitted to umpire the game and be in charge of the play. A volunteer is permitted to umpire the bases should there be a certified umpire working behind the plate. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES are we to allow anyone that isn't registered with Baseball Alberta as a player, coach or umpire to be on the field of play.

Payment of umpire fees: the team designated as the HOME TEAM is responsible for paying the umpire fees. At no time is the VISITING TEAM responsible to pay for any umpire fees.

Payment of the umpires is the responsibility of each participating association. Each team should be aware of its Association's policy on paying umpires for ERRBL games and follow those guidelines.

If a team is designated as the HOME TEAM but are playing at someone else's field, the coach of the designated HOME TEAM must pay the umpires at the field after the game.

Umpire fees are \$55.00 for 15U and \$60.00 for 18U for each umpire. If only one umpire is available, 1.5 times this amount is paid to that one umpire (\$82.50 for 15U and \$90.00 for 18U). The HOME TEAM coach will pay the umpire.

Any mileage for umpires can be found in the Baseball Alberta Handbook.

****New for 2023 - mileage has increased to \$0.50/km as voted on by the Baseball Alberta Board****

Please ensure you are familiar with your home association's umpire payment procedures and policies.

2023 BASEBALL ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Team Registration Fee for ERRBL.....\$50.00

Community Player Fee

15U (Ages 14-15).....\$27.50

18U (Ages 16-18).....\$27.50

Community Coaches.....\$25.00

*Please ensure you are familiar with your home association's registration fee breakdown for players entering Baseball Alberta leagues. Associations will be responsible for paying these fees.